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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/825,059

04/15/2004

James Weldon

67,010-096; H2755-SUN

7215

26096

7590

06/05/2006

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EXAMINER

PATEL, DHARTI HARIDAS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2836

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/825,059	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WELDON, JAMES	
	<b>Examiner</b> Dharti H. Patel	<b>Art Unit</b> 2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 September 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/15/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103[a] which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

[a] A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motsenbocker, Publication No. US 2004/0090195. With respect to Claim 1, Motsenbocker teaches a motor controller [motor controller for a watercraft, par. 0094 lines 1-7] comprising: an interface for manually entering values of a motor output [par. 0156, the operator interfaces with the boat's computer; par. 0164, the interface could consist of pushbuttons or a keyboard]; an input power setting determining module [the watercraft's computer/ microprocessor functions as the input power setting determining module, par. 0032] that automatically determines a motor input power setting based upon entered motor output values [par. 0095 lines 20-24; par. 0103 lines 5-9; the power output of the motor is set by computer/microprocessor to maintain a certain propeller slip, par. 0047, 0121, 0122, 0123, 0127. The watercraft's computer will not allow the propeller motor's output to exceed the power output required for a determined amount of propeller slip, par. 0032, 0035]; and a display portion that provides a visual display of the determined motor input power setting [par. 0041 lines 3-8; par. 0117; Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 display devices].

With respect to Claims 2 and 9, Motsenbocker teaches said values of motor output comprise a motor rating value [par. 0088, 0090, 0091].

With respect to Claims 3 and 10, Motsenbocker teaches said values of motor output comprise a motor efficiency value [par. 0031, 0032, 0033, 0041].

With respect to Claim 4, Motsenbocker teaches said values of motor output comprise an external current transformer value [par. 0105 says U.S. 4355274 by Bourbeau is a type of induction motor suitable for use with Motsenbocker's invention. Bourbeau teaches the use of current transformers, which are widely used in the art to monitor current, in the control of an AC induction motor in Fig. 4, current transformers 128, 130, 132].

With respect to Claims 5 and 12, Motsenbocker teaches a trip module [contained in the computer/electronics of the watercraft's controls] that automatically interrupts power to the motor responsive to an actual motor input power exceeding a motor input trip value that is based at least in part upon a motor output trip value [par. 0032, par. 0035, the trip module is implicit to Motsenbocker since the watercraft's computer will not allow the propeller motor's output to exceed the power output required for a determined amount of propeller slip].

With respect to Claims 6 and 13, Motsenbocker teaches the controller [contained in the computer/electronics of the watercraft's controls] automatically determines said motor input trip value based upon an entered motor output trip value [the output trip value is the desired slip value of the propeller, which is

based on a an input power setting of the motor, par. 0032; par. 0035; par. 0095 lines 20-24; par. 0103 lines 5-9].

With respect to Claims 7 and 15, Motsenbocker teaches said interface selectively locks to prevent a user from changing a setting of the controller [this is implicit to Motsenbocker since power boats have ignition switches to lock the watercraft when not in use, to prevent unauthorized use by others; as exemplified by Wilkinson U.S. 6752134, col. 16 lines 14-15].

With respect to Claim 8, Motsenbocker teaches a machine assembly [the assembly is the motor controller and the watercraft, par. 0094 lines 1-7] comprising: a motor [par 0002, 0030] having associated values of motor output [the output values of the motor are from 0 to 100% power]; a device [par. 0030, the watercraft's propeller] driven by said motor; an input power setting determining module that automatically determines a motor input power setting, using the associated motor output values [par. 0095 lines 20-24; par. 0103 lines 5-9; the power output of the motor is set by computer/microprocessor to maintain a certain propeller slip, par. 0047, 0121, 0122, 0123, 0127. The watercraft's computer will not allow the propeller motor's output to exceed the power output required for a determined amount of propeller slip, par. 0032, 0035]; and a display portion that provides a visual display of the determined motor input power setting [par. 0041 lines 3-8; par. 0117; Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 display devices].

With respect to Claim 11, Motsenbocker teaches said device comprises

a pump [the watercraft's engine is a type of pump since it is powered by a motor, has a propeller designed for fluid movement, and actively displaces water from one point to another when operating].

With respect to Claim 14, Motsenbocker teaches an interface for allowing a user to manually enter the associated values [par. 0125, operator enters values into a computer].

With respect to Claim 16, Motsenbocker teaches a method of determining a motor input power setting comprising the steps of: receiving values of a motor output; and automatically determining a motor input power setting based upon the received values of motor output [par. 0095 lines 20-24; par. 0103 lines 5-9; the power output of the motor is set by computer/microprocessor to maintain a certain propeller slip, par. 0047, 0121, 0122, 0123, 0127. The watercraft's computer will not allow the propeller motor's output to exceed the power output required for a determined amount of propeller slip, par. 0032, 0035].

With respect to Claim 17, Motsenbocker teaches displaying the determined motor input power setting [par. 0041 lines 3-8; par. 0117; Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 display devices].

With respect to Claim 18, Motsenbocker teaches manually entering the motor output values [par. 0125 lines 1-6] including at least a motor rating value [par. 0088, 0090, 0091] and a motor efficiency value [par. 0031, 0032, 0033, 0041].

With respect to Claim 19, Motsenbocker teaches automatically determining an actual input power trip value responsive to a received motor output trip value and determining whether an actual input power corresponds to the trip value [the output trip value is the desired slip value of the propeller, which is based on a an input power setting of the motor, par. 0032; par. 0035; par. 0095 lines 20-24; par. 0103 lines 5-9; the boat's computer will not allow the propeller motor's output to exceed the power output required for a determined amount of propeller slip].

### ***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dharti H. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2800, Ext. 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

Art Unit: 2836

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DHP  
05/13/2006



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